

RECEIVED

2021 JUN -8 P 3:52

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Carlene LeBlanc
Director of Finance and Operations
Our Sisters' School, Inc.

Head of School
Sarah Herman

Board of Trustees

Officers:

Alison Coolidge Boreiko
Kim Francis
Elizabeth Huidekoper
Martha Sullivan
Russell Weigel

Trustees:

Abbey Aevazelis
Cecelia Armstrong
Pamela Beck
Janet Egan
Linda Fenton
Rayana Grace
Helena DaSilva Hughes
Elizabeth Kellogg
Per Lofberg
Joe McDonough
Faith Morningstar
William Prescott
Catherine Stone
Angie Tavares
Christina Turner
Marcy Wintrub

Founding Chair Emerita
Lisa Schmid Alvord

Honorary Trustee
Talbot Baker Jr.

Founding Trustees
Lisa & Joel Alvord
Talbot Baker Jr.
Christina Bascom
Gaelen Canning
Kate Dabney
Gail Fortes
Helena DaSilva Hughes
Elizabeth Huidekoper
Doreen & Lou Lopes
Joan & Jonathan O'Brien
William Prescott
Bernadette Souza
JoAnn Tschaen

Advisory Council
Joel Alvord
Christina Bascom
Mary Jean Blasdale
Suzanne Church
Janie Coolidge
Barbara Ferri
Alice Flint
Stewart Forbes
Gail Fortes
Jill French
Bunny Hickey
Cela Hobbs
Linda Hobbs
Donna Jeffers
Hope & David Jeffrey
Nancy Kurtz
Téa Leoni
Lucinda Martin
Margaret McGettrick
Joan O'Brien
Celeste Penney
Christy Pennoyer
Susan Perry
Eve Pierce
Jeff Pontiff
David Prentiss
Ute Prevost
Debby Robbins
Cathy Roberts
Maryellen Shachoy
Bernadette Souza
Margot Stone
Marion Wainer
Sylvia Westphal

Hon. Michael Kubayanda, Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001
Re: Docket number: MC2021-78

April 28, 2021

Dear Chairman Kubayanda,


I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will dramatically increase the rates for flyers and books that are mailed to schools.

I oversee the expenses for our middle school in Massachusetts, and there is no doubt that the additional costs will ultimately be passed on to those purchasing books—students, their families and schools. There are already too many barriers to reading for most families we work with. We depend on access to affordable books, which the bound printed matter rates provide, to help us close the gap for our low-income students who normally could not afford higher-priced books.

Typically, more than 80% of our students come from families that don't have the means to create home libraries for their children. As a Scholastic Book Clubs partner, we are able to earn and use Bonus Points to build classroom libraries and book giveaways for our students. We also use low-cost but high-quality books as rewards for our students. These books, both in the classroom and at home, continue to inspire a love of reading in our students and their siblings, which have a positive impact on their success in all areas of life.

The pandemic has already had a tremendously negative consequence on students' learning experience and literacy rates in the United States. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make access to children's literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny this transfer, or to exempt educational materials, so that we can continue to provide access to affordable, quality books for our students and families. The impact of this change for our school children would be too high a cost to bear.

Sincerely,
Our Sisters' School, Inc


Carlene LeBlanc
Director of Finance and Operations

CC: Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney
Hon. Gary C. Peters
Hon. Ron A. Bloom

145 Brownell Avenue | New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740 | P:508.994.1255 | F:508.994.1355 | www.oursistersschool.org

Our mission, as an independent, tuition-free, non-sectarian middle school, is to educate and inspire economically disadvantaged girls from the New Bedford area. Our Sisters' School empowers girls to step into the future with valuable life skills and a mindset of achievement and excellence by providing a safe, supportive, and academically challenging environment.



145 Brownell Avenue
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740



Hon. Michael Kubayanda, Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

202680001 0000

